## EPAct and Clean Cities: What Is the Connection?

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct) includes both voluntary and mandatory measures to help reduce our nation's dependence on imported oil. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) implements these requirements through two programs—EPAct Fleet Regulations and Clean Cities—that support each other in fulfilling national objectives.

Officially known as Public Law 102-486, EPAct addresses many aspects of energy supply and demand, including buildings, electricity generation, and conservation. But a major portion of EPAct focuses on our dependence on imported petroleum for transportation. The law built on previous federal legislation promoting alternative fuels and established both mandates and incentives to help overcome market barriers associated with the difficult switch from conventional fuels.

EPAct requires fleets owned or operated by federal and state governments and alternative fuel providers to meet a portion of their light-duty vehicle acquisitions with alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). EPAct further requires fuel providers to use alternative fuels in their AFVs. In the years since 1992, regulated fleets have helped build a core market for AFVs and have displaced 32.7 million equivalent gallons of conventional fuels.

Perhaps less familiar to regulated fleets is DOE's Clean Cities Program—the voluntary side of EPAct. Clean Cities was created in 1993 to provide technical, informational, and financial resources to both regulated fleets and voluntary adopters of alternative fuels. Clean Cities also has a successful track record and has demonstrated significantly higher deployment rates for alternative fuels in areas involved in the program than for the nation as a whole.

The Clean Cities Program works through local or regional coalitions made up of public and private stakeholders. Today the program boasts more than 80 coalitions in 44 states. Among its 4,800 stakeholders are local, state, and federal government agencies, commercial fleets, automakers, fuel suppliers, utility companies, and professional associations. These coalitions represent great resources for information and collaboration for regulated fleets.

### Old Laws, New Markets

The scope of the EPAct regulations and Clean Cities has changed since the early 1990s, reflecting the evolution of both vehicle and fuel technologies. For example, Congress amended EPAct in 1998 to allow covered fleets to meet up to half of their annual requirements through the use of biodiesel in blends of at least 20% with petroleum diesel. DOE adopted a rule implementing this change soon after. Another significant step was Executive Order 13149. It shifted the focus for federal fleets from simple AFV acquisitions to petroleum reduction through use of alternative fuels in their AFVs, purchase of more efficient vehicles, and other measures.

State fleets have also expanded their focus on displacing petroleum, going beyond what is required. Many have invested in fueling infrastructure to increase the amount of natural gas and propane in their AFVs, ethanol used in their dual-fuel vehicles, and biodiesel used in their diesel vehicles. These states are using alternative fuels to help solve local air quality issues, develop local economic opportunities, and demonstrate regional leadership.

Similarly, Clean Cities has expanded its focus over the years. In 2002, the program embraced hybrid vehicles as a way for coalitions to expand their impact. A year later, the program began a

formal roadmapping process to include a range of technologies and practices to further accelerate petroleum displacement. The new areas include idle reduction in trucks, use of lower percentage fuel blends, purchase of higher efficiency vehicles, and others. The program is also evaluating connections between today's alternative fuels markets and tomorrow's hydrogen economy. Many of these areas are also of interest to regulated fleets.

## Tapping the Clean Cities Resource

Clean Cities coalitions represent a vital resource to regulated fleets. The 80-plus coalitions provide a virtual marketplace in which fleets can join forces to pursue projects in partnership. Together, coalition members can share the development of fueling infrastructure, secure funding, leverage resources, and combine vehicle purchasing power. Coalitions also provide a forum in which fleets can learn from other successful fleets and make contact with fuel and vehicle providers, funding sources, and other resources.

In some areas, regulated fleets are anchor members of their local coalitions, but in many areas the links have yet to be made. There are many vibrant coalitions that regulated fleets can join. Locations and contacts for coalitions can be found on the Clean Cities Web site (see box). New coalitions can also be formed in areas not currently served. Designation requirements are described in the "Clean Cities Designation Guide," which is available either online or by calling the Clean Cities Hotline.

Regulated fleets can benefit from the services, tools, and resources provided by Clean Cities. The program's online Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) provides data about AFV operation, federal and state financial incentives, locations of fueling

stations nationwide, and vehicle and fueling equipment. It also provides online decision-making tools to aid fleet managers and an electronic database of documents and publications. It even operates a free telephone hotline.

Coalition members can also access technical assistance provided by teams of experts (called Tiger Teams) that can help solve technical implementation problems. Members are also eligible to submit applications for financial assistance from Clean Cities for alternative fuel and other petroleum-displacing projects.

Fleets can also take advantage of workshops and conferences, including the annual National Clean Cities Conference, which is the largest gathering of its kind. A highlight of the National Conference is awards presented to best-in-class coalitions and members.

## For More Information

### EPAct Fleet Regulations

www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/epact
- State & Alternative Fuel Provider Regulatory Information: regulatory_info@afdc.nrel.gov, 202-586-9171
- Federal Fleet Regulatory Information: fed_fleets@afdc.nrel.gov

### Clean Cities Program

www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities
- Clean Cities Hotline: 800-CCITIES (800-224-8437)
- Alternative Fuels Data Center: www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/afdc
- Coalition Locations and Contacts: www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/coalitions.html